



STORIES | RELATIONSHIPS | FAITH

THE GATHERING APRIL NEWSLETTER

The Gathering is excited to launch our new mission.

The **Network Table** is a research-driven model that trains people to form teams to use their skills and networks to empower others. Our Friends (the individuals, families, and organizations being served) have complex needs that they cannot solve on their own. But, by using social capital to remove barriers, a Network Table helps Friends achieve goals they could not realize on their own.



Open Table asks the important question " *What if we responded to people in need with empowerment, not charity?* This grassroots model has trained thousands of people, organizations and social entrepreneurs in more than 30 states to organize the relational and social capital of the community. This empowerment model works when community members commit to share their unique skills, backgrounds, and networks to empower one another.

Partners in Open Table effort:

Residents of the City of Petersburg, Crater Health District, faith organizations, businesses, and Career Workforce Development and the Petersburg Police Department



Pastor's Reflections

[Good Friday](#)

[Easter](#)



Past Community Events

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our last Saturday Luncheon due to high winds, however The Gathering was still able to serve the city of Petersburg. Our Pastor delivered pizza to the young ladies of Chances and Choices mentoring program at Virginia State University. Fresh produce donated by Justin J. Heart Foundation, was delivered to 50 community members!!!

MAY CALENDAR

1st Saturdays Lunch: parking lot WSUMC 1PM-3PM

Wednesday 9 am walk each week, weather permitting.

Take a breath: 4th Friday of the month:

Network Table Training 1st and 3rd Monday of the month

May 7, Lebanon UMC, Dinwiddie, Audrey Smith, guest preacher

June 4, St. Mark UMC, Petersburg, Audrey Smith, guest preacher

CALL TO ACTION!!

You too can share a part in transforming the City of Petersburg. We are always in need of donors, volunteers and residents. If you'd like to "gather" with us,

[Click Here](#) or mail

to: P O Box 2719,
Petersburg,
VA 23804

To learn more, please contact: Audrey Smith, Pastor
audreysmith@vaumc.org

**The Gathering at Washington St.
P. O. Box 2719
Petersburg, VA
804-631-3335**

[Facebook](#)

Website under construction: <https://www.gatheringwashst.org/>

BOOK OF THE MONTH

"The Prayer of a Broken Heart: An Orthodox Christian Reflection on African American Spirituality" by Rev. Paul Abernathy.

Rev. Abernathy hosted several leaders from Petersburg in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania several years ago. They visited the Neighborhood Resilience Project to learn about community trauma-informed care. Rev. Abernathy facilitated a virtual conversation on community resilience with Petersburg residents via Zoom in 2020. To learn more visit: <https://neighborhoodresilience.org/>

Breakthrough Prayer:

"Show us what breaks your heart, O God. Free us for joyful obedience to do our part. Guide us to see what is, and what is not yet could be in Petersburg. Amen."
